



## ELIZABETH GLASER PEDIATRIC AIDS FOUNDATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### STATEMENT OF KATE S. CARR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ELIZABETH GLASER PEDIATRIC AIDS FOUNDATION

KAMPALA, UGANDA -- We applaud Vice President Gore's call today before the United Nations Security Council to substantially increase resources to fight HIV and AIDS in the developing world. Every day, 1,800 children around the world are newly infected with the disease. The Vice President today demonstrated the leadership necessary to ensure that the progress we have achieved here in the United States reaches other countries. Globally, 33.6 million people live with HIV and AIDS, and more than two-thirds of them in Sub-Saharan Africa. Without meaningful intervention, the numbers will continue to rise. We must do more.

As a member of the Clinton/Gore Administration's LIFE Initiative Implementation Tour Delegation led by Sandy Thurman, Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, I arrived in Kampala, Uganda on Sunday, Jan. 9. I can only attempt to describe the affects of AIDS in the developing world. I now have seen first-hand the difficult choices and enormous challenges that African nations face dealing with this pandemic. This morning, we visited two Ugandan grandmothers participating in the United Women's Effort to Save Orphans (UWESO) program. I met Bernadette Nakayina, a 70 year-old Ugandan woman who cares for 34 grandchildren because their parents, 11 of Bernadette's children, died from AIDS.

Tomorrow, our delegation will tour the Mulago Hospital in Kampala, the site of the first successful clinical study on the treatment that blocks HIV transmission between mother and child, which Vice President Gore mentioned in his remarks today.

The treatment, nevirapine, can change the course of the pediatric epidemic by reducing the rate of HIV transmission from an HIV infected mother to her newborn by almost half. The financial cost of preventing HIV infection of children is so much less than the cost of treating them; giving one dose of nevirapine to a mother at delivery and giving one dose to her baby costs just four U.S. dollars.

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In August 1999, the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation and Global Strategies mobilized a program to catalyze efforts to reduce mother to child HIV transmission, donating more than \$1 million to support implementations of therapies in developing nations. The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation is currently supporting studies in Uganda to further this discovery. We must continue to fund scientific research to help us understand more about the short-and long-term impact of nevirapine and other short course treatments.

These interventions will begin to save lives immediately.

The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation will continue to work side by side with representatives of governments, the private sector and the nonprofit community to break down barriers. Leadership matters. African nations will play an unparalleled role to help meaningfully reduce the transmission of HIV from mother to child – if we can work collectively as global citizens.

With leadership, like Vice President Gore, United Nations General Secretary Kofi Annan and the entire membership of the U.N. Security Council demonstrated today, we will continue to fight the growing complacency around this disease. We must maintain a sense of urgency until we discover both a cure and vaccine.

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